

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SSO-00 DRC-01

OMB-01 /158 W

----- 122427

R 131515Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2325

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13848

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, VT, SU, ET

SUBJECT: AFRO-ARAB INITIATIVE ON JERUSALEM

DEPT PLEASE PASS USINT CAIRO

REF: ROME 13504

1. CHECK WITH VATICAN DESK OFFICER FOR MIDDLE EAST DEC. 13
REVEALED THAT VATICAN STILL HAS NOT BEEN APPROACHED RE HIM-
NIMEIRI VISIT. ALTHOUGH SOURCE DID NOT THINK POSSIBILITY OF
VISIT COULD BE WRITTEN OFF, HE OBSERVED THAT HAILE SELASSIE MAY
BE QUESTIONING WISDOM OF ASSOCIATING HIMSELF WITH WHAT SEEMS
LIKE EXCLUSIVELY ARAB SOLUTION OF JERUSALEM PROBLEM.

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2. WE NOTED THAT RECENT RUMORS IN ROME ALLEGE THAT A NUMBER OF ARAB AMBASSADORS ARE ENCOURAGING VATICAN TO INSIST ON PARTICIPATING IN GENEVA TALKS SO THAT ITS VIEWS ON JERUSALEM AND HOLY PLACES CAN BE OFFICIALLY MADE KNOWN. SOURCE REPLIED THAT THIS FALSE; ARABS HAVE NEVER DISCUSSED WITH HOLY SEE QUESTION OF PARTICIPATING IN GENEVA TALKS.

3. SOURCE SAID THAT VATICAN OBSERVER AT UN HAD ALSO PICKED UP STORIES ABOUT DESIRABILITY OF VATICAN TAKING PART IN GENEVA PEACE TALKS, BUT NO UN OFFICIAL HAS RAISED MATTER OFFICIALLY WITH VATICAN OBSERVER MISSION.

4. SOURCE STATED THAT, AS A MINIMUM, HOLY SEE HOPES SOME MECHANISM WILL BE CREATED IN GENEVA TO PERMIT ITS VIEWS ON JERUSALEM TO BE EXPRESSED; HOWEVER, THIS NEED NOT INVOLVE DIRECT PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCE. WHEN CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION BECOMES KNOWN, VATICAN WILL GIVE MORE THOUGHT TO MATTER. SHOULD THERE, FOR EXAMPLE, BE A SPECIAL COMMITTEE DEALING SOLELY WITH QUESTION OF JERUSALEM AND HOLY PLACES, SOURCE SAID HE WOULD VISUALIZE HOLY SEE BEING REPRESENTED THEREON. HE REITERATED THAT ANY SOLUTION OF JERUSALEM QUESTION WHICH FAILS TO SATISFY CONDITION OF AN "INTERNATIONALLY GUARANTEED SPECIAL STATUTE" WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO HOLY SEE.

5. ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR TO HOLY SEE TOLD US DEC. 13 THAT HIM-NIMEIRI VISIT STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION IN ADDIS, BUT THAT NUMBER OF QUESTIONS HAD TO BE ANSWERED BEFORE HIM COULD AGREE TO PARTICIPATE. BEAUDRY

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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